Maidenhead

Education Committee.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

School Medical Officer

1917.

Maidenhead:

Printed by R. Loosley, 55, Queen Street.

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BRITISH MUSEUM 30 66 MAY

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OF THE

BOROUGH OF MAIDENHEAD.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This, the tenth Annual Report of the School Medical Officer, differs in several respects from those of previous years. For reasons of economy and the difficulty in connection with printing, separate discussion of the various defects and ailments found in the course of inspection has been omitted, but as these have been fully dealt with in the report for 1914 and previous years there is little need to repeat what has already been said. The usual tables showing results of inspection for each school have been replaced by the modified official tables issued by the Board of Education and although these do not afford a means of comparing one with another the conditions found in the local schools, they give main facts of school medical inspection as a whole.

The total number of scholars falling within the groups to be examined is rather higher than in the previous year, namely 839 as compared with 791 and is largely to be explained by the inclusion of children who may be classed as temporary residents.

Special cases, re-examinations and other odd units amount to approximately the same number as in previous years, but it should be noted that the figures given in Table I. are for those examined at school and do not include the scholars sent up to the weekly inspection clinic on Friday mornings by teachers and others.

With regard to physical, hygienic and other defects, the total numbers are much the same as before but the general impression gained in the course of inspection is that one does not find now so many severe cases as, say, five or six years ago, also, that an ever increasing proportion of ailments and defects have received attention before the child is due to appear for inspection. This may reasonably be attributed to the fact that parents are beginning to recognise for themselves the defects which handicap a child during school life and further to seek appropriate treatment of their own accord. It is a practical outcome of one of the aspects of School Medical Inspection which is not always recognised namely, that routine inspection has an effect in educating parents to pay attention to the symptoms caused by the common defects of childhood and to know that these are abnormal conditions which ought to be remedied.

In reviewing the work of the year it must be acknowledged with regret that treatment of the more important cases has fallen far short of what was hoped for. The arrangements for treatment at the Cottage Hospital which were agreed upon in 1913 fell through on account of those members of the Medical Staff who were mostly concerned with this work entering Military Service so that the clinics could not be held regularly. Another contributing factor was the vacancy in the office of School Nurse which occured twice in the year so that the system of "following up" was somewhat dislocated. In the matter of surgical treatment, it should be mentioned that the Ray Mead Children's Hospital—a private institution—has done valuable service in attending to a considerable number of school children whose parents have applied there on their own account for treatment or have been referred there.

At the time of writing this report, steps are being taken to establish a dental and an oculist's clinic at the Guildhall so that in the course of the current year ample provision will be made for proper attention to defects of eyes and teeth, while enlarged tonsils, adenoids and similar affections of the throat and nose will be treated as far as possible at neighbouring hospitals as before.

Minor ailments are mostly attended to at the weekly inspection clinic which continues to grow with increasing vigour. During the past year no fewer than 210 school children were sent up for various causes and the total attendances made in the course of the 44 occasions on which the clinic was open reached 540.

As in former years the "Mayor's Fund" has been applied to for assistance in necessitous cases particularly for a supply of milk (one pint daily) to be sent to school for the benefit of certain poorly nourished or delicate scholars. This was done in 20 cases, also clothing and boots were supplied in four cases and spectacles in two cases.

The common illnesses causing loss of attendance at school are shown month by month, in the subjoined list. None of the more serious infectious diseases were prevalent and only in one case was it found necessary to close a school viz. the Council Infants which was closed from March 30th to April 17th, on account of chicken pox, measles and whooping cough.

Illnesses affecting Scholars in 1917.

January .....Influenza.
February .....Coughs and Colds, Broken Chilblains.
March .....Influenza, Coughs, Tonsilitis, Mumps.
April .....Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough.
May .....Mumps, Measles, Chicken Pox.
June .....Mumps, German Measles.
July .....Measles, Diarrhœa.
August .....Holidays.
September.....Very little sickness.
October .....Sickness and Diarrhœa.
November.....Colds, Diarrhœa.
December.....Many cases of Impetigo and Scabies..

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

James J. Paterson.

School Medical Officer.

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APPENDIX.

Borough of Maidenhead:

Table I. Number of Children Inspected.

1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1917.

A. "Code" Groups.

Entrants.

Age.—	Under 5 years	5 years	6 years	Other ages	Total
Boys ...	Nil.	133	13	13	159
Girls ...	Nil.	126	16	13	155
Totals	Nil.	259	29	26	314

Intermediate Group. Leavers.

Age—	8 yrs.	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	Other Ages	Total	Grand Total
Boys ...	137	120	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	257	416
Girls ...	148	120	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	268	423
Totals	285	240	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	525	839

B. Groups other than "Code."

Intermediate Group.

	9 years.	Special cases.	Re-examinations.
Boys ...	1	16	23
Girls ...	2	35	36
Totals	3	51	59

Borough of Maidenhead.

TABLE II. Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1917.

Defects or Disease.		Code Groups. Number referred for treatment.	Code Groups. Number required to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Specials. Number referred for treatment.	Specials. Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Malnutrition	23 (a)	122 (b)	2	2
Skin	Uncleanliness. Head	20 (c)	224 (d)	8	15
	Uncleanliness. Body	4 (c)	13	1	1
	Ringworm. Head	2	—	—	—
	Ringworm. Body	—	—	—	—
	Scabies	2	—	—	—
	Impetigo	10	1	—	1
	Other Diseases	7 (e)	2 (f)	—	1
Eye	Defective Vision, Squint	48	—	7	10
	External Eye Disease	12	7	1	2
Ear	Defective Hearing	5	12	1	3
	Ear Disease	16	—	1	1
Teeth	Dental Disease	7 (g)	341 (h)	2	2
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	16	152 (i)	2	3
	Adenoids	5	42 (j)	—	1
	Nasal Obstruction	—	29 (k)	1	3
	Defective Speech	—	30	—	—

Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease. Organic	1	—	—	—
	Functional	—	3	—	—
	Anaemia	—	5	—	—
Lungs	Pulmonary. Tuberculosis Definite	1	—	—	—
	Suspected	3	—	—	—
	Chronic Bronchitis	—	3	—	—
	Other Diseases	—	—	—	1
Nervous System	Epilepsy	1	—	—	—
	Chorea	—	—	—	—
	Other Diseases	—	1 (l)	—	—
	Non-plumonary. Tuberculosis Glands	—	2	—	—
	Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms	1	—	—	—
	Rickets	—	2	—	—
	Deformities	—	4	—	—
	Other Diseases or Defects	5 (m)	7 (n)	—	3

(a) Nutrition poor or much below average.
(b) Nutrition below average but not requiring special treatment.
(c) Verminous.
(d) Nits only found.
(e) Abcesses, Eczema, Seborrhoea, and other sores.
(f) Alopoecia.
(g) With dental abcesses, etc., and specially referred for treatment.
(h) With 4 or more teeth decayed.
(i) One or both Tonsils somewhat enlarged requiring operative treatment.
(j) Pharygeal Adenoids but not at present requiring operative treatment.
(k) Nasal obstruction from causes other than Adenoids.
(l) Infantile paralysis.
(m) Enuresis, Discharging Sinus, and Rupture.
(n) Old injuries, Sebaceous cyst, Enlarged Thyroid.

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table III. Numerical Returns of all Exceptional Children in the area in 1917.

			Boys.	Girls.	Totals
Blind (Including partially blind).		Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	3	—
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	—	2	2
		Not at School	—	—	—
Deaf and Dumb (Including those partially deaf).		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	2	—	2
		Not at School	1	—	1
Mentally Deficient.	**Feeble Minded.**	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	—	1
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	—	—	—
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	1	—	1
		Not at School	1	1	2
	Imbeciles.	At School	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	—	—
	Idiots.		—	—	—
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	—	1
		Attending Certified Schools for Epilepics	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	—	—

Table III. (continued).

			Boys.	Girls.	Totals
Physically Defective.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	9	6	15
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	3	8	11
	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	6	1	7
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	1	2
	Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	3	5
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
		Not at School	1	—	1
Dull or Backward.....		Retarded 2 years	not	recor	ded.
		Retarded 3 years	5	3	8

Table IV. Treatment of Defects of Children during 1917.

Condition.	Number of Defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			Number of Defects for which no report is available.	Number of Defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			Number of Defects not treated.	Percentage of Defects treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	100·0
Footwear	—	3	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	3·0
Clean. Head	3	21	24	6	18	11	7	—	—	75·0
,, Body	—	4	4	—	4	4	—	—	—	100·0
Nutrition	1	23	24	3	21	—	18	3	—	87·5
Nose and throat	1	20	21	6	10	9	1	—	5	47·6
External eye disease	4	12	16	1	8	2	3	3	7	50·0
Ear disease	3	16	19	1	15	4	6	5	3	78·9
Teeth	4	7	11	1	6	6	—	—	5	54·5
Heart and circulation ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lungs	1	3	4	—	4	1	2	1	—	100·0
Nervous system	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	100·0
Skin	23	81	104	—	104	80	17	7	—	100·0
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities	1	4	5	1	4	—	4	—	—	80·0
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	100·0
Speech	—	10	10	8	2	—	—	2	—	80·0
Mental condition	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	100·0
Vision and squint	1	48	49	—	8	—	7	1	41	16·3
Hearing	1	5	6	3	3	—	1	2	—	50·3
Miscellaneous	—	19	19	3	14	6	6	2	2	75·6
Total	43	280	323	33	228	127	73	28	63	70·9

Borough of Maidenhead.

Table V. Inspection, Treatment, Etc., of Children during 1917.

1. The total number of children medically inspected (wether Code Group, special or ailing child).	893
2. The number of children (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	253
3. The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	159
4. The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	112

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